" (*d*) Three amins could not be absorbed as one of them died, another retired and the third one left the service with a gratuity."

SRI M. DHARMALINGAM :—" Sir, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether when they are restored to service they are being given the old salary with the increments accrued and if not will Government consider that and do that? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" Sir, peons are being paid at Rs. 18—1—25 plus usual dearness allowance and the amins are paid Rs. 24—1—32 plus dearness allowance."

SRI M. DHARMALINGAM :—" I put a specific question to the Hon. Minister, Sir, whether the peons and amins absorbed in other department on account of the abolition of the estate courts are being given their old salary? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" This is the rate which I have furnished and the hon. Member can easily compare."

Erosion of the banks of Vellur river.

* 2023 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there has been land erosion on both banks of the Vellur river near Karimkuzhi Bridge in Payyanur Firka, North Malabar, resulting in damage to paddy fields; and

(*b*) if so, the preventive measures taken by the Government in the matter?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) It has been proposed to protect the banks from erosion by rough stone pitching or by encouraging nanal plantations. This proposal is included in the scheme for straightening the course of the river and shifting the bridge on the Payyanur-Padiotchal road northward to mile 3/0 of the road where the river is to be straightened and will be carried out along with it in due course."

Governor's tour in the Laccadives and Minicoy Islands.

* 2024 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) the expenditure incurred for the tour undertaken by the Governor in the month of December 1954 in the Laccadives;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Union Jack was found flying in the Minicoy Islands during the visit of the Governor; and if so, the reasons therefor; and

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(c) whether the Minicoy Islands are part of this State and the Constitution of India is applicable to them?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (a) Rs. 44,016–3–0. 8-40 a.m.

" (b) It is a fact that the Union Jack continues to fly over the light-house in the Minicoy island. This is due to the fact that the light-house is under the control of the Department of Transport of the United Kingdom, but I may add that negotiations with regard to the transfer of its control to the Government of India are under way.

" (c) The answer is in the affirmative."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" The Governor spent about Rs. 44,000 for his visit to the island and submitted a report. May I know whether even after this the Government spent at least Rs. 4,000 to improve the conditions of the people of the island? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" It does not follow that immediately after the Governor's visit, the Government should spend Rs. 4,000. All the suggestions made by the Governor are being examined by the Government. There is a suggestion for plying a steamer service between the island and the State border and that is under the active consideration of the Government of India."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" May I know whether exploitation of the fishery wealth around the island is one of the suggestions made by the Governor and, if so, have the Government taken any action to implement it? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" That is under examination by the Government."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Large schemes involving huge expenditure may be left for further consideration or for consideration in consultation with the Government of India. May I know why the Government take a long time for deciding even matters like the provision of very small amenities? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The recommendations made by the Special Officer who visited this island a few years ago had already been considered by the Government and most of them had been implemented. I have given in this House from time to time the list of amenities like the provision of schools and hospitals that have been provided for the welfare of the islanders. I do not think there are any more recommendations of the Special Officer yet to be implemented by the Government. With regard to the suggestions made by the Governor, they are under examination. As soon as the examination is over, as many of them as can be implemented will be implemented."

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—" It is eight years since our country attained independence and why should the Union Jack be

still flying over a part of our territory? When was this issue taken up by the Government of India and when is a decision expected to be arrived at regarding this light-house? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The Union Jack has been there because the light-house is under the control of the Department of Transport of the United Kingdom. The question of transfer of the light-house to the Government of India is still under correspondence with the United Kingdom. The Government of the United Kingdom have stated that they are agreeable to *de facto* transfer, pending legislation by Parliament for *de jure* transfer which will take some time. The matter is under the consideration of the Government of India."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" The Islanders are still governed by the autocratic rule of the amins over whom the Collector is not able to exercise proper control due to lack of communication. One of their demands has been the introduction of democratic element in the administration. May I know what has been done by the Government with regard to this matter? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" As I said, this is a matter which has got to be considered in consultation with the Government of India, and that is being done."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Will the Hon. Minister take a party of legislators to this mysterious Island? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I have been asking enthusiastic Members like the Member who put this question whether they will accompany me on a visit to the Island within three or four months."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Have the Government taken any action on the recommendations made by Mr. Francis, who was deputed by the State Government to enquire into and make suggestions for the development of the Island? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN ;—" They are almost similar to the recommendations made by the Special Officer, Sri S. Y. Krishnaswami, a few years ago. Action is being taken to implement the suggestions made by him."

Amendment to the City Municipal Act.

* 2025 *Q.*—SRI S. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Corporation of Madras has suggested any amendments to the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon by the Government?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.